

Jersey Tiger *Euplagia quadripunctaria* (Poda) (Lep.: Arctiidae) in south east London

According to Baron de Worms, in his chapter on the family Arctiidae in volume 9 of *Moths and Butterflies of Great Britain and Ireland*, the Jersey Tiger has been established as a breeding species on the south coast of Devon, between Seaton to Torquay, since about 1880. In the past 126 years it has moved rather little, although it is now well known at a number of inland sites. A scan of the annual reviews of immigrant Lepidoptera in the pages of this journal reveals that in the past ten years or so there has been a slight extension of range eastwards across Dorset and as far as the Isle of Wight, though apparently no further other than the well known and quite isolated population in the Folkestone area of Kent.

It was, therefore, something of a surprise to receive a telephone call from no less a body than ITN (Independent Television News) asking if I could do a piece to camera on the Jersey Tigers breeding in Lewisham! Trying hard not to sound completely ignorant I agreed and immediately set about doing some hurried research. This uncovered the following data for Jersey Tiger in London. Several records are unverified, especially those from the "*Back Garden Moths website*", where the names of the observers are less than complete. However, it seems most probable that all are correct. The records affect the border area between the vice counties of West Kent (16) and Surrey (17) and are recorded in both places:

Devonshire Road Nature Reserve, Forest Hill "for the past three years or so" [writing in 2006] "a local resident has photographed pairs *in copula*" and also at Garthorne Road Nature Reserve, which lies on the other side of the railway track (per Wayne Butler, Ecology Officer, L. B. Lewisham); Forest Hill, 2005 ("Rob", Back Garden Moths website); Honor Oak Park, one on a garden fence, 14.vii.2006 ("Andrew", Back Garden Moths website); Forest Hill, 15.vii.2006, "Flying in back garden during sunny afternoons. Same species, same place one year ago" ("Rob", Back Garden Moths website); Forest Hill, one alive inside a house on 25.vii.2006, Tania Joyce (Back Garden Moths website); Crofton Park, 26.vii. & 27.vii.2006, resting on back door of a house ("Cate", Back Garden Moths website); Crofton Park, TQ 364746, flying and settling on wooden fence in rear garden at Brockley Road on 2.viii.2006 ("Chris", Back Garden Moths website); Brockley, at least 8 in a back garden, 3.viii.2006, Camilla Goddard. One red hind-wing form female seen and verified by CWP and filmed for television; Beckenham (16), one red hind-winged form at mv light 5.viii.2006 (verified from photograph by CWP) and a yellow-winged f. *lutescens* on 15.viii.2006 (John. Nisbett); Forest Hill, one in a garden on three occasions over two weeks in August. The date of 14.viii.2006 is quoted ("Rob", Back Garden Moths website); Brockley, 5 to 7 individuals in and around a back garden [in 2006] ("Becky", Back Garden Moths website); Wandsworth Common, 2.ix.2006, Tony Bell (det. Paul Wheeler, from photograph).

There is also a single record from north London, constituting a first for the species in Middlesex, (VC 21): Highgate Wood (21), one on 7.viii.2006, f. *lutescens*, (Cindy Blaney via M. Hammerson). I suspect that the list may be incomplete and I welcome additional records.— COLIN W. PLANT, 14 West Road, Bishops Stortford, Hertfordshire CM23 3QP (E-mail: cpauk1@ntlworld.com).